(b) to (d) The production of agricultural crops including cotton, oilseeds and pulses, depend on many factors such as area covered, rainfall received during monsoon, favourable temperature, input position, managerial skill of farmers. If any one of more of these factors become adverse, the production is affected. In 2002-03, the production declined due to heavy impact of drought conditions. The production of pulses in 2005-06 shows an increase of more than 9% over the corresponding production of 2000-01 mainly due to increase in productivity. The production of cotton also registered an increase of about 19% in 2005-06 over 2000-01.

Containment of stray dog menace

3661. DR. M.S. GILL;
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to ban on killing of stray dogs provided in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the population of stray dogs in Punjab has gone up meanacingly causing threat to public health;

(b) the steps Government have taken under Animal Birth Control Rules for castration of male dogs and spaying of the females; and

(c) whether the matter has been brought to the notice of Government by the State Government and have asked for funds for carrying out the ABC Programme as required and if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) There is no information available with the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries regarding any change in population of stray dogs in Punjab.

(b) The Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules have been widely circulated to all State Governments/Union Territories. The Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Local bodies are made aware of the rules. The ABC programme is being implemented in all metropolitan cities and other major cities and towns. The Animal Welfare Board of India, a statutory body under the administrative control of Ministry of Environment & Forests, is administering schemes (*viz.* ABC, Shelter House, Ambulance and Natural

Calamities) and providing financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 445/- per operation under the ABC Scheme.

(c) Under a consolidated proposal for Schemes for improvement of animal husbandry, received in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, the State Government of Punjab has indicated a requirement of Rs. 2.89 crores under a scheme for birth control and immunization of stray dogs. The Department does not implement any such scheme for birth control and immunization of stray dogs. However, the Animal Welfare Board of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been providing assistance to the animal welfare organizations, which apply, to the Board for implementing the Animal Birth Control Programme. Details of animal welfare organizations in Punjab which have been sanctioned financial assistance for the ABC programme as per information furnished by the Ministry of Environment and Forests are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Name of the organization	District	Amount released (Rs.)
1.	2001-02	SPCA, Chandigarh	Chandigarh	57,000
		PFA, Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1,63,200
2.	2002-03	SPCA, Chandigarh	Chandigarh	57,000
3.	2003-04	SPCA, Chandigarh	Chandigarh	66,750
4.	2004-05	PFA, Chandigarh	Chandigarh	2,22,500*
			Total	5,66,450

* Sanction letter sent amount not released so far.

Cold storage in Andhra Pradesh

3662. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from State Governments to set up more cold storages in the States especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?